



Public Affairs Office
Commander, U.S. Third Fleet



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Media interested in covering *USS Vandegrift's* departure should contact [Naval Surface Forces](#) Public Affairs Office by Oct. 9.

USS Vandegrift Returns to San Diego from Deployment

SAN DIEGO – The guided-missile frigate, [USS Vandegrift \(FFG 48\)](#), will return to San Diego, October 12, after an independent six-month deployment to the 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR) in the Western Pacific Ocean.

"It was a privilege to participate in such a wide variety of missions that were so critical to regional security and stability in the Pacific AOR," said Vandegrift's Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Steven Prescott. "The crew acted as extraordinary ambassadors for our Navy and nation throughout this deployment. They executed all assigned missions with enthusiasm and confidence. I am extremely proud of all of their efforts over these last six months."

USS Vandegrift performed a variety of tasks during the deployment. The ship participated in Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT), with the countries of Brunei, Thailand and Malaysia, and Naval Engagement Activities (NEA), with Indonesia. During CARAT and NEA, Vandegrift engaged in a wide range of activities including military symposiums, gunnery exercises, anti-submarine warfare training, deck landing qualifications and community relation projects which demonstrated regional partnerships and significantly enhanced military-to-military relationships throughout Southeast Asia.

Vandegrift provided theater security cooperation support during 11 port visits in eight different countries such as Vladivostok, Russia, which commemorated Russia's Navy Day, and Aomori, Japan, to celebrate the 50th anniversary signing of the Japanese and U.S. Mutual Security Treaty.

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Vandegrift conducted maritime operations in the South China Sea with USS George Washington (CVN 73) Carrier Strike Group and participated in Valiant Shield 2010. The ship also participated in Pacific Partnership 2010 in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea. During the week long visit, Vandegrift helped provide medical and dental assistance to over 6,000 people, helped complete four engineering projects and various community service projects.

Vandegrift helps provide deterrence, promote peace and security, preserve freedom of the seas and humanitarian/disaster response within 3rd Fleet's 50-million square mile AOR in the Eastern Pacific, as well as supporting the Navy's Maritime Strategy when forward deployed.

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